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TWO BOOKS ON ENGLISH LITERATURE.

History of English Literature, by REUBEN POST HALLECK. New York: American Book Co., 1900. Sm. 8vo, pp. 499. \$1.25.

Outline History of English and American Literature, by CHARLES F. JOHNSON. New York: American Book Co., 1900. Sm. 8vo, pp. 552. \$1.25.

Two teachers of English literature have here given us the benefit of their experience in the form of usable manuals for high school and elementary college classes. The two differ somewhat in method. Mr. Johnson tends to emphasize the study of individual authors (for example, he says nothing about Romanticism), while Mr. Halleck gives more attention to the study of movements and tendencies. The latter method of study has certain undeniable advantages, one of which is that it leads the student to study literature alongside of history. It is well that in recent years the importance of studying history and literature side by side has been recognized and emphasized; we are glad to see that both our authors have furnished references to the leading books on English history.

While both these manuals show improvement on earlier text-books, we can hardly pronounce either of them perfect. Both are comparatively weak in the early periods of our literature; it is perhaps too much to expect that the specialist in modern English literature shall be equally at home in our early literature. To the Anglo-Saxon period Mr. Johnson gives fourteen pages, Mr. Halleck thirty-five. Professor Johnson's sketch is readable but inadequate. We can hardly agree with Halleck that the language of the Teutonic invading tribes is now *generally* "called Anglo-Saxon or Saxon" (p. 12); and certainly Anglo-Saxon is not the sister language of modern German (p. 13): it is rather an elderly aunt. To derive *scōp* from *scippan* (p. 19) is to distort the truth; and *nipende* does not mean "noisome" (p. 17). His attempt to expound the early Teutonic religion in two somewhat obscure paragraphs is not successful; and in general the early chapters should in a future edition be thoroughly revised.

Professor Johnson has had a greater struggle

with the problem of compression, and if we consider the difficulties to be met, he has succeeded well. Yet when we note the apparent absence from his pages of a large number of minor names (for example, Lydgate, Gascoigne, Ascham, Wycherley, Otway, Bp. Butler, Maria Edgeworth, Ann Radcliffe, Gilbert White, Peacock, Adam Smith, Robertson, Thomas Beddoes, Bp. Berkeley, John Wilson, Lockhart, Symonds, Edwin Arnold, Stephen, Faraday, Milman, Green, Jean Ingelow), we can only regret that he devotes, for example, a whole page to the date of Chaucer's birth, that he gives in general so many minor biographical details, and that he prints so many illustrative extracts which are now accessible in inexpensive editions; indeed it would have been better to leave out most of the extracts, giving instead brief bibliographical notes on series like "The Riverside Literature Series" and "Cassell's National Library." Arriving at the Victorian Era Professor Johnson could give only fifty-nine pages to it, while Halleck has given it ninety-five. Yet Johnson's discussions have a certain freshness; and for schools with small libraries, which can give only a short time to the subject, the book may be commended.

Professor Halleck has, perhaps wisely, left the treatment of American literature "to works dealing especially with that branch;" his book, therefore, naturally reveals fewer omissions, and a number of minor authors not discussed in the text are mentioned in a supplementary list, with their chief works. He apparently does not mention Walter Map, however, and he says too little about the metrical romances which solaced our ancestors. Like Johnson's his discussion of the origins of the drama is inadequate; yet he gives a valuable hint in mentioning the Christmas and Easter services (p. 134), and in general his treatment is better than Johnson's. The same is true of his Shakespeare pages and of his characterization of the Victorian Age, on which, as for quantity, he has fourteen pages to Johnson's four; but neither author says enough about our later writers. It is now practically certain that Sir Philip Francis did *not* write the *Letters* of Junius; and the lists of "works for consultation and further study" contain too

many poor books. Yet in spite of these blemishes Mr. Halleck has made a convenient and meritorious text-book. Well chosen illustrations and a good index help to make the book attractive and valuable both for school use and for reference.

CLARK SUTHERLAND NORTHUP.

Cornell University.

SHAKESPEARE.

Richard the Third up to Shakespeare, by GEORGE B. CHURCHILL, Ph. D., *Palæstra*, Herausgegeben von Alois Brandl und Erich Schmidt, No. x. Berlin: Mayer & Müller, 1900. 8vo, pp. 548.

THIS is a formidable thesis worked out in copious detail by one of Professor Brandl's students. The idea is a fruitful one. It is to trace the growth of the "Richard saga" from its beginnings until the material of it came into Shakespeare's hands, separating at all points the historical from the purely legendary, and exploring the source of each item of legend as it enters the saga. The work has been done solidly and well, and is an important contribution to Shakesperian scholarship. The materials have been carefully digested, and are displayed with almost more than German thoroughness.

Five hundred full pages is almost too much for even a dissertation in the Shakesperian field. Most of the excessively long analyses of chronicles, poems, and plays might have been retrenched without great loss to the reader, and more frequent reference made to the originals. Still, as it is, here you have all of the necessary material and a reference-book and source-book for *Richard the Third*, all in one volume. The all too numerous misprints, not half of which are corrected in the long list of "Corrigenda" at the end of the volume, and for which the author excuses himself on the ground of distance from the press, are discreditable to *Palæstra*. If theses and other books in English are to be printed in Germany, they should be held to a stricter standard of typographical accuracy than has been displayed of late years.

The first half of the volume deals with "Richard in the Chronicles," the second with "Richard in Poetry and the Drama." Of the chronicles the so-called "Second Continuation of the History of Croyland Monastery" receives careful consideration as the best of the original historical authorities. Here we have tolerably firm footing. Richard, of course, is the slayer of the princes of the Queen's kin, and of Hastings, but with the other crimes in Shakespeare's list he is not charged. In the chronicles of Rous, de Comines, and Bernard André, the blackening process has begun. With Sir Thomas More and Polydore Vergil, however, we first meet the chief sources of the purely legendary elements of the Richard saga. From them Shakespeare's immediate sources, Holinshed and Hall, draw their main supplies. The author has manifested great critical patience and skill in disentangling from the mass of the sources the essential contributions of each to the legend.

In the anonymous *History of the Arrival of Edward IV*, (Camden Society, 1838) the only purely Yorkist account of the period, Richard (Gloucester) is uncharged with any crime. Warkworth's *Chronicle* (Camden Society, 1839) is the first of the Lancastrian series. Here the idea of Fate and Retribution is first emphasized. Richard here figures only subordinately.

In the *Second Continuation of the History of Croyland Monastery*, we have the first full history of Richard's reign. Here are related the execution of the Queen's kin by Richard after the death of Edward IV, the fate of Hastings, the intrigues of Richard and Buckingham, the imprisonment of the young king in the Tower, the forced appeal of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the queen in the sanctuary at Westminster to give up the young Duke of York, and her compliance, the seizing of the throne by Richard on the pretext that the princes were bastards, the death of the princes in the Tower, the first arrival of Richmond, the death of Queen Anne (no suggestion that Richard poisoned her), Richard's plans to marry his niece and their frustration, the second landing of Richmond at Milford in Wales while Richard, trusting to prophecy, was expecting him to land at Milford, near